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social distances, wear a mask, and don't gather in groups.

How about acknowledging Earth Day by exploring some of the Town's over 1000 acres of conservation land? Sylvan Gardens is full of daffodils right now or maybe head to Star Bog to look for signs of [river otters](#). Improvement projects have recently been completed at George Ryder and Old Comers Forests, Valley Farm and the Training Field Triangle.

Visit the Conservation Division's [webpage](#) for links to trail maps and more information about our conservation lands.

Thank you,
Jill R. Goldsmith, Town Manager



DEAR RESIDENTS & BUSINESS OWNERS:

Earth Day in Chatham

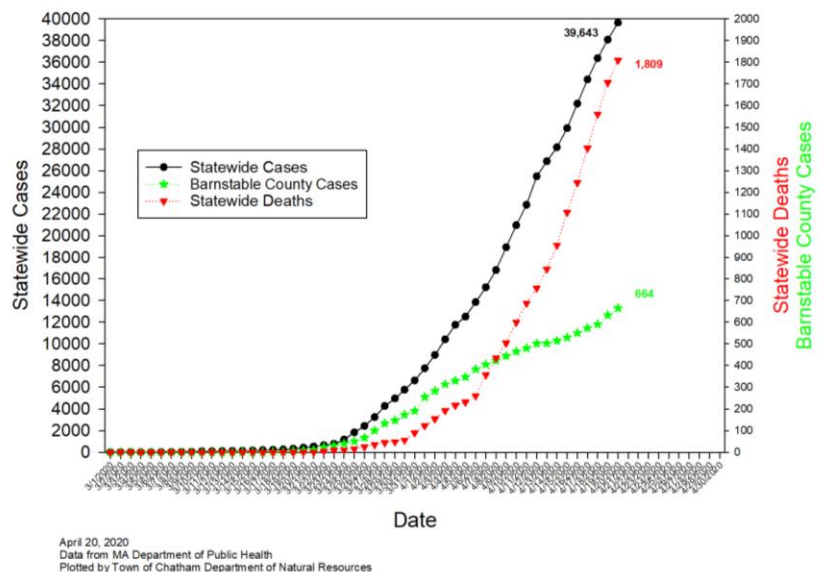
April 21, 2020

We are lucky in Chatham to have miles of public beaches to walk and the Old Colony Rail Trail for cycling, however as these areas are seeing increased usage please remember social distancing is still our best defense against COVID-19.

If you are visiting a beach or walking or biking the Trail, please maintain

**CHATHAM CASE
COUNT**
4/21/2020
Total: 8

COVID-19 in Massachusetts



TOWN OF CHATHAM | DEPARTMENT HEADS

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Peter Connick
Fire Chief

Mark Pawlina
Police Chief

Thomas Temple
DPW Director

Alix Heilala
Finance Director

Jillian Douglass
Human Resources

Dr. Robert Duncanson
Health & Natural Resources

Kathleen Donovan
Community Development

Terry Whelan
Principal Projects & Operations

Julie Smith
Town Clerk

Daniel Tobin
Parks & Recreation

Amanda Speakman
Council on Aging



TOWN OF CHATHAM | MA



Taking Care of Our Own

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 30 local families each received approximately 4½ bags of fresh, frozen, and non-perishable groceries through the *Health Meals in Motion* and *Pantry to People* programs.

These ongoing programs are a partnership between the Chatham Council on Aging (COA) and the Family Pantry of Cape Cod in Harwich and are open to any member of the community who is experiencing a food need. Groceries are distributed the third Wednesday of each month. The Family Pantry provides the food, packed to order, and delivered in their refrigerator truck to the COA for distribution through the *Healthy Meals In Motion* program. *Pantry to People* participants receive delivery at their residences directly from the Family Pantry.

As all Town facilities remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this month's program execution by COA staff not only included making and confirming appointment times, collection of shopping lists by mail, and scanning of shopping lists to the Family Pantry all while working remotely but also involved the challenge of coordinating outdoor curbside distribution.

The physical distribution of groceries, clam chowder donated by Hangar B, and shopping lists for May was greatly assisted by ten volunteers from the Brewster Orleans Chatham Harwich Citizens Emergency Response Team (BOCH CERT). Volunteers followed CDC recommendations for social distancing and use of masks while loading participants cars.

For more information on the *Healthy Meals In Motion* program, please contact the Chatham Council on Aging at 508-945-5190. The next BOCH CERT training will take place in the fall.

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Chatham's Emergency Operations Center is available M-F, 8 a.m. 4 p.m. and can be reached at 508-945-5191 or via email to chathameoc@chatham-ma.gov. Visit www.chatham-ma.gov for more information.

JILL R. GOLDSMITH | CHATHAM TOWN MANAGER

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TOWN OF CHATHAM | MA

Unemployment Benefits Available for Self-Employed, Independent Contractors, Gig Workers

Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

The new federal PUA program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and those with limited work history. Applicants can learn more and apply at www.mass.gov/pua.

"As a Commonwealth, we are committed to doing everything in our power, and moving as urgently as possible to get workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis the benefits they deserve," said Governor Charlie Baker. "With the implementation of this new federal benefit program, we can better support workers not normally covered by the unemployment system like those who are self-employed or work in the gig economy."

To be eligible for this new program, individuals must provide self-certification that they are otherwise able and available to work but are prevented from doing so by circumstances relating to COVID-19, including their own illness or that of a family member.

The federal CARES Act signed into law on March 27 created PUA, as well as another temporary federal program called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) that provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit for those receiving unemployment benefits or PUA. FPUC provides that additional benefit through July 25, 2020. The Commonwealth announced implementation of FPUC earlier this month.

All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit. Once a worker's wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase. The amount of PUA benefits received is based on the individual's reported previous income. PUA benefits may not be more than the state's maximum weekly benefit rate for regular unemployment, which is \$823 in Massachusetts.

Weekly benefits, including any increase to your weekly benefit amount, will be retroactive to January 27, 2020, or the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as you became unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason.

Visit the [Town's COVID webpage](#) for more resources for community members and businesses.

Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund

A few weeks ago, the Board of Selectmen organized a subcommittee working group comprised of Chair Shareen Davis, Town Manager Jill Goldsmith, Selectmen Jeff Dykens and with Finance Committee Chair Stephen Daniel to assess and address the needs in our community. In short order it was evident that a fund was needed to help our citizens and the Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund was created. It is a community wide project operated in conjunction with Lower Cape Outreach Council providing funds to cover vital household expenses (rent, mortgage, utilities) for Chatham residents struggling during this critical period of eliminated or significantly reduced employment.

For more information please visit <https://www.monomoy.org/support-us>. If you are in a position to help, please consider donating online or mail a check to:

MCS Coronavirus Impact Fund, 166 Depot St. Chatham, MA 02633

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